

HISTORIC SAILING SHIP MODELS MAKE BICENTENNIAL MORE REAL



REALISTIC SCALE model of the Constitution (Old Ironsides) the U.S. Navy's oldest ship that is currently berthed at Boston, is the product of many hours of work by Jim Gillis, of Porterville. The model is one of five old sailing ships, built by Gillis, that tie closely with the history of America. (Edwards Studio photo)

PORTERVILLE — "Avast ye lubbers! Stand by to make sail and get underway!"

The sailors, dressed in dark stocking caps, white trousers, and striped tight-fitting shirts, climb into the rigging, loosening lines and letting furlled sails fall from spars to fill in the freshening breeze.

Slowly the frigate heels in the wind and slides forward through the waves headed for a battle rendezvous with pirate ships that have been pillaging merchant vessels off the American continent's east coast.

Maybe in this day and age this sounds a bit far fetched. But if you stand in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Gillis at 825 Cleo, you can easily imagine the whistle of the "bosun's" pipe and the feel of the deck heaving

under you with the sea's swell.

The reasons for these sensations are some beautifully accurate scale models of five old sailing vessels that were connected closely with the history of our country.

—And all of them were "built from scratch" by Jim Gillis, head of the household.

The largest is a fantastic work requiring 1,200 hours of painstaking labor to complete. It is a model of the "Constitution" better known as "Old Ironsides." It stands five feet high from keel to masthead, is six feet, six inches from bow sprit to stern, has 40 inch spars, and weighs some 65 pounds.

There are three square yards of canvas in the sails, 4,000 feet of string required for the rigging "lines"; 474 tiny hand-carved

blocks in the rigging set-up, and myriad handcarved belaying pins along the rails to which the lines are tied when the ship is fully rigged.

But that's only the beginning. There is much more work involved including many hours of draw filing, plus careful work with tweezers, pins, and glue. That's not mentioning the hours of sanding, painting and other careful carving required to complete the work.

And there are five such models, mostly of historical ships, sitting in the home of Gillis.

It all started about four years ago when Gillis, a sign painter by profession, decided he wanted to make a model ship. He selected plans for an old Spanish galleon

(Continued On Page 10)

1776 AMERICA'S THE FARM TRIBUNE BICENTENNIAL 1976

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Thursday, May 6, 1976

TULARE COUNTY CATTLEMEN SET 5th ANNUAL SALE

VISALIA — More than 2,000 cattle will be auctioned Saturday, May 8, in the fifth annual "Off-the-Grass" special sale co-sponsored by the Tulare County Cattlemen's Association and the Stockman's Market of Visalia.

The sale gets underway at noon, following a free barbecue lunch, at the Stockman's Market, 733 North Ben Maddox Way.

"Over the years, this has been one of the leading slaughter and feeder sales held in California,"

(Continued On Page 2)

Mrs. Alex Pelous County Winner In Beef Cook-Off

PORTERVILLE — Culinary skills and a "Beef Round Steak Roll" recipe combined to give Mrs. Alex Pelous, of Lindsay, top honors in the Tulare County Beef Cook-Off, held April 30 at the Porterville High School Home Ec. department.

She earned a \$25 cash award and the privilege of entering the next phase of competition in the District Cook-Off to be held in Bakersfield, May 15.

Runners-up in the contest sponsored by the Tulare County CowBelles were Mrs. Less

(Continued On Page 2)

THE NEW FAIR...WHAT'S HAPPENING?

PORTERVILLE — When the 29th Porterville fair opens May 20, the "new" multi-purpose fair grounds will reflect an expenditure of some \$190,000 and new and renovated facilities will have a replacement value of well over a quarter million dollars.

And as of May 20 fair directors will have borrowed some \$65,000 to implement the major fair improvement project that started the first of the year - a project that is designed to give southeastern Tulare county not

only a new fair grounds but a facility that will be available throughout the year for a number of uses by organizations in the community.

All of this is being done on a self-supporting basis - just as the Porterville fair has operated throughout its 29-year history. The fair receives no state aid, its financial resources come from profits made by the fair - profits that under the fair's organization as a trust association must be "plowed back" into the fair - and from the donation of work

and money by many hundreds of men, women and young

(Continued On Page 5)

Citizens Display Yesteryear In Special History Program

PORTERVILLE — Fifth, seventh and eighth graders, plus all others interested are getting a firsthand look at historical bits of our nation and our area in "The Citizen's Showing of Yesteryear," currently underway in the upstairs auditorium of Porterville city library.

The event is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Saturday and features talks on and displays of frontier costumes and equipment; local historical artifacts and pictures; models of early day sailing ships connected with our nation's history and authentic uniform reproductions; a flag display; a miniature display of an old-time circus, Indian dress, artifacts,

and skills, a VFW color guard, and a display of old fire fighting equipment and firemen's uniforms.

The display and explanations is the idea of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gillis, 825 Cleo. Gillis is noted for his old sailing ship models. He has gained the interest of other citizens who have historically related hobbies. Included are Bill Horst with frontier firearms and costumes; Bill Reese with local pioneer artifacts; Jeff Edwards historical photos of the area; Todd McNutt, a flag display and woodcarving; Chester Slusser and his miniature circus or carnival; Clara Charlie with

(Continued On Page 2)

Local 4-Hers Win Honors At The Fair

TULARE — Four of the six grand champion and reserve grand champion animals shown at the Tulare county 4-H fair last week were shown by local area 4-H club members.

Theresa Hunsaker of Springville 4-H, showed the grand champion steer while Leisa Milford of Vandalia 4-H, showed the reserve grand champion steer.

The grand champion lamb was shown by Alan Lombardi of Burton 4-H, while Patty Oxford of Prairie Center, showed the

(Continued On Page 10)

JUNIOR RODEO, GYMKHANA SET FOR MAY 16

PORTERVILLE — The Porterville Horsemen's association will sponsor a junior rodeo and all-age gymkhana beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 16, at Plano Stables.

According to officials of the sponsoring organization, funds derived will be used for the

(Continued On Page 10)

CATTLEMEN MEET AT THREE RIVERS

Tulare County Cattlemen will meet May 11 at the White Horse Inn, Three Rivers, to hear Dr. James H. Cothorn, extension service economist, tell what the housewife thinks of beef and the beef industry. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.; presiding will be Glen Fink, association president.

Panther Band In Bicentennial Salute To "America '76", Friday

PORTERVILLE — A Bicentennial salute to "America '76" will be presented by the Porterville High School Panther band in its 23rd annual concert tomorrow night (Friday) at 8 p.m. in the Memorial auditorium.

Under the baton of Frank "Buck" Shaffer, the band will play a wide variety of music, including: Jubilee March, Beguine Again, Mannin Veen, Trumpet Filigree, Hymn Festival, Star Spangled Spectacular, America The Beautiful, 1812 Overture, Interlude Romantique, Radio Rag, Twentiana, and - as the band's traditional concluding number - Stars And Stripes Forever.

Featured in a Dixieland number will be Jimmy Kusserow

on trumpet; Doug Bigham, tenor sax; David Neece, clarinet; Lawrence Valdez, trombone; Ken O'Hare, drums; and Clyde Slusser, bass.

Featured trumpet players will include Doug Ream, Jeannie Lopez, Chris Ross and Kusserow.

Paul Perez, playing alto sax, will appear as band soloist; announcing the concert for the 20th year in a row will be Harlan Ohde.

The Frank Howard student award will be presented to the outstanding bandsman for 1976 and student service awards will go to senior bandsmen who have contributed effort and talent "beyond the regular call of duty."

Tickets for the concert can be

(Continued On Page 2)



TWO HUNDRED years of history is represented in a Bicentennial show being presented now by a group of volunteer history buffs in the second-floor auditorium of the Porterville city library from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, through Saturday. The frontiersman above - that's Bill Horst, of Porterville. (Edwards Studio photo)



FEATURED MUSICIANS in the Porterville High School Panther band concert tomorrow night (Friday) in the Memorial auditorium will be, from left: Clyde Slusser, Ken O'Hare, David Neece, Jim Kusserow, Doug Bigham and Lawrence Valdez. With curtain time at 8 p.m., the band will be playing its 23rd annual concert, this year themed to "America '76."



POW WOW at Porterville College - as seen by the Tribune Camera.

WORMS

A. B. Jones, 2001 N. Hockett, Porterville, Calif. 93257, is the author of "Worms: A Guide to the Life of the Earthworm." The book is available in paperback for \$2.00, hardcover for \$3.00, and a large format for \$4.00. A few of the titles are:

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COLLECTING \$155 for the Muscular Dystrophy association by the Golden Hills 4-H club netted the unit a plaque shown being presented to Club President Brenda Tompkins by Barney Clamage, MDA district director.

History Program.

(Continued From Page 1)

Indian dress, artifacts and skills, Ted Ensslin with Indian artifacts; the local firemen's display of old fire fighting equipment; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3802 color guard.

Students from each of the local elementary school 5th, 7th, and 8th grades will be bussed to the display, Thursday and Friday, but from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday and all day Saturday, the displays will be open to the public.

Gillis said each of the persons volunteering their time and talents to the special historical show will present a short talk on their exhibits to visitors as they pass through the display area. Most will be dressed in costumes depicting the era, or special field of interest, they represent.

Gillis said the effort should help youngsters and others get a better grasp of our bicentennial, the history of our country, and our area by actually seeing examples of it and hearing about it from persons who are vitally interested in it.

Mrs. Alex Pelous.

(Continued From Page 1)

Guthrie, of Porterville, second, and Mrs. Loren Close, Tulare, third.

Mrs. Guthrie prepared "Reuben Burgers" and Mrs. Close entered her favorite beef recipe, "Pot Roast Italiano."

Four other women were finalists in the Tulare County phase of the Cook-Off. They are Mimi McGivern, Porterville; Mrs. Hale Kemp and Mrs. C.L. Parkhurst, Springville; and Mrs. Mike Bourdreau, California Hot Springs.

Mrs. Pelous will compete against winners from Fresno, Kings, Kern, Inyo-Mono, and San Bernardino counties in the district event for a chance to enter State and National Cook-Offs.

Mrs. Marian Guthrie, of Porterville, chaired the Tulare County contest. Judges were Pauline Fink, Suzette Begin, Lorraine Burtner and Gloria Reece, all Porterville area home economics teachers.

The event is free to all interested persons.

Mrs. Jack Erickson, of Tulare, is president of the Tulare County CowBelles and chairman of the State Beef Cook-Off contest.

Cattlemen Set.

(Continued From Page 1)

said H. Skinner Hardy, salesmaster.

It is also billed as a fund-raiser for the TCCA, with a percentage of the sales receipts donated to the organization to further its scholarship and youth activities.

Steers, heifers and slaughter cows are in the consignment, said Hardy, and buyers are expected from several Western States.

Auctioneers will be Hardy and John and Ed Rodgers. Glen Fink, of Porterville, is the TCCA president.

Panther Band.

(Continued From Page 1)

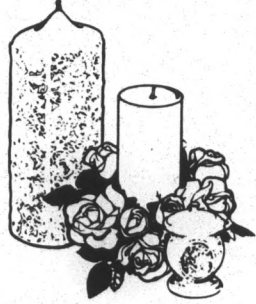
secured at Wayne's Music Mart and Meades in the Village; from any band member, and at the door on a first-come, first-serve basis. Donation is \$1.00 per person.

The 1976 concert will mark Shaffer's 23rd year as director of the Panther band.

Hallmark Mother's Day Gifts Sunday, May 9



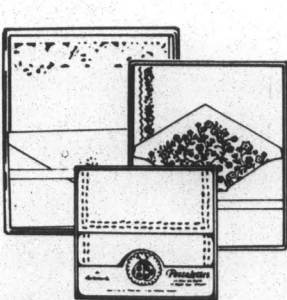
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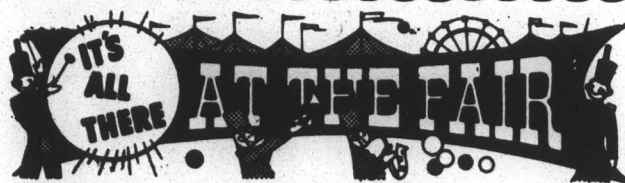
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Tulare County Property Tax Below Average

SACRAMENTO — Tulare county residents paid an average property tax of \$10.45 for each \$100 of assessed valuation during the 1975-76 fiscal year, according to the state board of equalization, but they still got off lighter than the average taxpayer in the state.

According to figures released recently, the average state resident pays a total of \$11.33 in property tax for each \$100 assessed valuation.

Tulare county taxpayers contributed \$63,771,000 against a total assessed property value of \$610,064,000 during the fiscal year.

State total property tax payments amounted to \$8,296,752,000 against a total assessed property value of \$73,245,581.

Lowest property tax rate in the state was paid by Alpine county residents at \$4.11 per each \$100 assessed value while highest payment was \$13.16 per each \$100 assessed value paid by Alameda county residents.

County Chamber Sets Banquet At Giant Forest

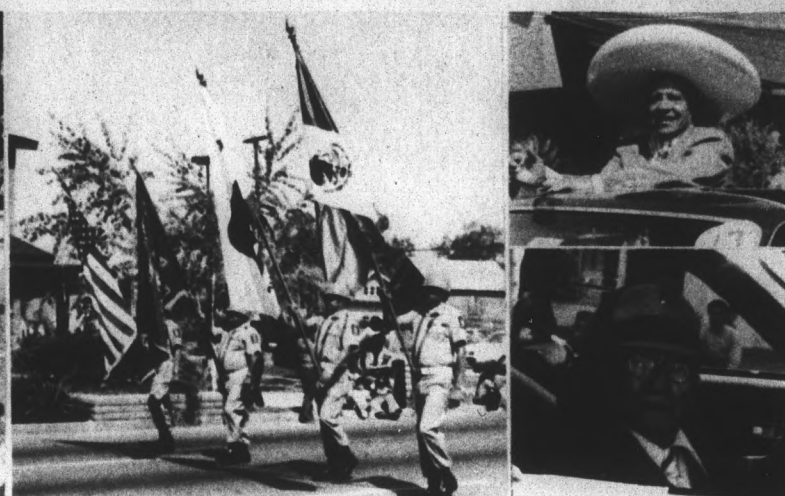
VISALIA — The annual banquet of the Tulare county chamber of commerce has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at Giant Forest Lodge in Sequoia National Park.

The banquet is open to the public with reservations required through the Tulare County courthouse office in Visalia at \$7 per plate on a first come, first served basis.

Dinners may be paid for at the door with checks to be made out to Giant Forest Lodge and not to the chamber of commerce. Those staying overnight should make reservations for accommodations with Giant Forest Lodge at 565-3373.

This year's banquet will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Tulare county chamber of commerce in 1901. Featured speaker will be Joe Doctor, administrative assistant to Senator Howard Way, who will review the chamber's history in a talk, "There Were Giants In Those Days."

Additional information is available at the county chamber office, 733-6513.



A WEEKEND of celebration featured Cinco de Mayo observance in Porterville under sponsorship of Comision Honorifica Mexicana Americana, with a colorful parade and special entertainment in downtown Porterville, a queen's show, traditional festival in the Porterville municipal ball park, a queen's ball, and a bowling tournament. In above photos, top, from left: Princess Patricia Delgadillo, Queen Sylvia Torres,

and queen attendants - Mona Camarena, Connie Coronado, Jeannie Lopez, Alicia de La Garza, Maria Rodriguez, and Roxanne Flores. Lower photos, from left: Scene at the ball park during the afternoon program, with a number concession stands operating during the day; color guard in the Saturday parade; and Parade Grand Marshal Mike Nava with his 90-year-old father, Emigdio.

(Farm Tribune photos)

Summer Session Registration On At Local College

PORTERVILLE — Registration for Porterville college's summer session is underway and continues through June 8 in the PC Registrar's Office.

Persons wishing to enroll in some 70 day and evening credit courses may do so from 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Individuals wanting to take non-credit classes may sign up at the office of continuing education or the first class session.

Summer session classes get underway June 7 and continue until July 16. A listing of courses is currently available from the PC registrar's office.

Shorn wool produced in California during 1975 totaled 10,389,000 pounds, four per cent less than in 1974.

Local Dancers In Bicentennial Show

PORTERVILLE — The New Awakening Jazz Dance company, featuring two former Porterville residents, will present a special dance concert at Porterville College at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 8, in the PC theater.

The nine-member company, which includes in its number Sherry and Gordon Perry of Porterville, will perform a program entitled "Dance Through the Decades." The concert is open to the public without charge.

In their performance, the dancers will present a history of American dances by re-creating dances done in this nation from the 18th century to the present.

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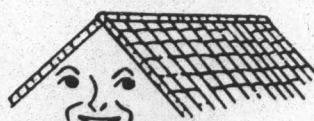


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NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK SET

PORTERVILLE — The Villa Manor Care Center in Porterville, and thousands of other long term care facilities across the nation, will be celebrating National Nursing Home Week, beginning on Mother's Day, May 9.

Cal Poly Pomona Offers MS Degree

POMONA — The California State Polytechnic University, Pomona School of Agriculture, has been granted approval to offer the master of science degree in agriculture initially through the animal science department.

FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 11

VISALIA — Officers for 1976-77 will be elected, by-law amendments considered and annual written reports presented at annual meeting of members and directors of the Tulare County Farm Bureau to be held Tuesday, May 11, in the Assembly room at Visalia.

President Harold Fox states that dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by the business meeting, plus a special guest speaker.

The 1976 Valencia crop for California is estimated at 23 million boxes or 46,000 cars.





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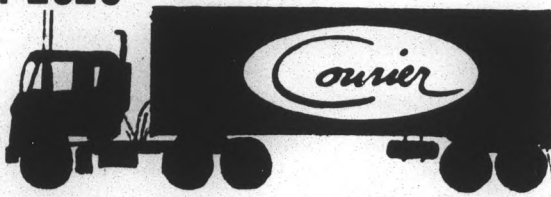
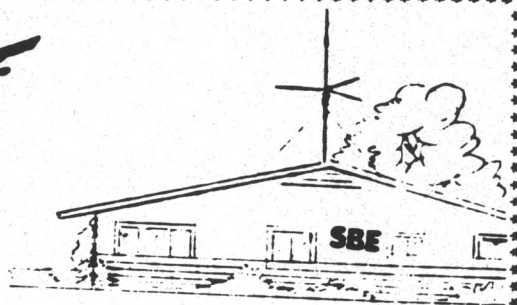
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The New Fair... What's Happening?

(Continued From Page 1)

people who have come to know the Porterville fair as "our fair."

Where did the money come from, how is it being spent in the new fair program?

As of the first of the year fair directors had about \$33,000 in cash money that had come from fair operation profit; value of the "Zalud property" that was willed to the fair by the late Pearle Zalud, was about \$40,000; through the county of Tulare the fair received \$50,000 in revenue sharing funds - with no strings attached other than it be spent for what it was designated, new livestock barns; about \$15,000 has been received in donations.

Base bid on the new, metal livestock barns was \$74,000; the fair board appropriated another \$20,000 for electrical wiring and plumbing in the barns.

The old commercial exhibit building was remodeled into a sharp, modern facility at an expenditure of slightly more than \$50,000.

Four new outdoor concession stands are now near completion at a total cost of about \$24,000.

An \$8,000 fence around the fair grounds is being completed by the Breakfast Lions at a cost to the fair of about \$600.00.

New ornamental horticulture exhibit area represents about \$2,500 in actual expenditure; remodeling of the fair office and the rabbit building cost about \$2,000.

A number of smaller projects are lumped together at an estimated cost of \$6,000 - outside lighting, necessary new plumbing, ticket booths, grounds improvement, painting of rest rooms, construction of livestock wash racks and general improvements around the grounds.

Involved in expenditures is about \$65,000 that has been borrowed from local banks and which will eventually have to be repaid.

As for the fair's revenue situation, directors believe that, with new facilities, larger crowds will be on the grounds and sale of more commercial exhibits and program advertising will substantially increase annual gross returns. And with improved facilities, operating cost of producing the fair will be

reduced.

A rental charge will also be made for use of fair facilities in the future, with directors to work out a schedule immediately after the 1976 fair closes.

As has been often stated by directors, the fair needs money - money in the form of contributions, which are tax deductible. Directors Joe Mosconi and John Trimmell are in charge of financing; some \$15,000 has been contributed since the first of the year.

Policy of the new Porterville fair will not be changed. The fair will operate under an agreement with the City of Porterville (fair buildings are on city property) just as it has operated since 1952 when the fair "moved to town," and a board of directors as established by the fair's legal designation as a trust association, designed primarily to promote the activities of 4-H club members and Future Farmers, will continue to "run" the fair.

Theme for the 1976, Bicentennial fair is, "So Proudly We Hail;" fair dates are May 20, 21, and 22; adult admission to the fair will remain at \$1.50; outdoor professional show and other entertainment will be free; a carnival will operate on the fair grounds, with charges made for rides and other attractions; organization-operated concessions will offer food and drinks on the grounds.

In looking ahead, landscaping of the grounds, planting of grass and general improvement will start immediately after 1976 fair closes, and included in the fair's master plan are two major projects that will be completed before the 1977 fair, if financially possible - construction of a new home economics building and construction of a new rest room-dressing room facility.

California's spring cabbage acreage is estimated at 3,000 acres, a decrease of 9 per cent below last year's spring season planting.

An estimated 11,000 acres of carrots will be harvested in California during the spring quarter.

Farmer Intent Indicates Crop Acreages Off

SACRAMENTO - California growers report intentions to plant 6.89 million acres to field crops this year according to the California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, slightly less than the 6.94 million acres planted last year.

The largest change is expected in cotton acreage with 200,000 acres more than last year proposed to be planted. Durum wheat, corn, grain sorghum, and potatoes are also expected to show acreage increases as compared to 1975.

On the decrease side will be rice with 25 per cent less acreage indicated to be planted and barley acreage expected to be down 10 per cent followed by hay and sugar beet acreages indicated to be lower.

The reporting service emphasized these figures indicate growers' intentions to plant, but may be altered by later decisions based on weather, shortages or other economic factors.

Hire A Veteran Week Closes Here

PORTERVILLE - "Hire a Veteran Week" is winding up in the local area Saturday after gaining the support of city officials and the local American Legion Post 20.

Employers of the local area are urged to give special consideration to the development of employment for veterans who represent a fair-sized segment of persons out of work, according to Raymond Schwab, veterans representative of the local office of the Department of Employment Development.

Fall and winter planted grain under irrigation is maturing while some fields are being green chopped or cut for hay and some dryland fields are being disced under or grazed off.

Cotton planting is going at full speed as the weather warms while breaking of crusted soil in early seeded fields continues in some areas.



A CHECK for \$300 from the Springville Farm Bureau Center has been presented to directors of the Porterville fair for use in an extensive facilities improvement program now underway. Perry Marlin, Springville Center chairman, is shown presenting the check to Bill Rodgers, president of the Porterville fair board.

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FARMERS FOR FORD

PORTERVILLE — Senator Howard Way was in Porterville, Friday, as state chairman of California Farmers For Ford. Local member of the state committee backing the candidacy of President Ford is Bill Bennett.

Calving and lambing continues heavy in the northern part of the state.

THE PORTERVILLE BARN THEATRE

PRESENTS
THE ADULT DRAMA

"ONE FLEW OVER
THE CUCKOO'S NEST"

May 7 & 8

Curtain 8:15 p.m.
Adults \$2.50
Students & Senior Citizens
\$1.50

Reservation: 784-2573

Bells, Carillons To Toll Exact Time Of Bicentennial

PORTERVILLE — The local area will be a part of the national bell ringing program on the Fourth of July to herald the nation's entrance into its third century.

Communities, churches, schools, fire departments, universities, and individuals in all parts of the nation are being asked to toll bells and carillons in conjunction with the ringing of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia at 2 p.m. (EDST). The time is exactly 200 years from the precise moment that the Liberty Bell proclaimed our national independence.

Buck Shaffer, chairman of the Porterville bicentennial committee, said his organization wants to be involved in the event and he is inviting all local organizations or persons with bells or carillons to become involved in the symbolic national effort to commemorate our nation's founding.

In planning the activity, John W. Warner, administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial association, said the

bell-ringing will go on for two minutes in honor of the nation's first two centuries.

To create unity, the bell ringing here will take place at 11 a.m. (PDST) which will coincide with the electronically amplified ringing of the famed Liberty Bell at 2 p.m. EDST in Philadelphia. Amplification of the Liberty Bell ringing is necessary because of the crack. Sons of the American Revolution will ring the famed bell.

In addition to nationwide bell ringing ceremonies and group or individual bell ringing activity, radio and television stations are being asked to broadcast the sound of bells during the prescribed two minute period.

CITRUS MEN PLAN TOUR FRIDAY, MAY 21

VISALIA — A tour of the citrus areas of Fresno and Madera counties is planned by the Citrus Men's club on Friday, May 21, with reservations on two chartered busses at \$10.00 per person being accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

A box lunch will be served at Friant dam and a tour of that facility has been arranged. Tour stops will be made at the Gordon Harlan, Russell Giffin and S & J ranches.

Points to be discussed will be citrus planting trends, variety trends, the future of lemons and cultural methods; the new Kinkelder sprayer will be demonstrated and irrigation methods, including drip irrigation, will be seen in operation.

Harry Baker, president of the Citrus Men's club, and Farm Advisor John Pehrson are arranging the tour; joining the tour will be Tod Browne, Fresno county farm advisor, and George Leavitt, Madera county farm advisor.

The tour will leave the agricultural building in the county civic center, Visalia, at 8 a.m., May 21; reservations, with check, should be mailed to Citrus Men's club, P.O. Box 279, Lindsay 93247.

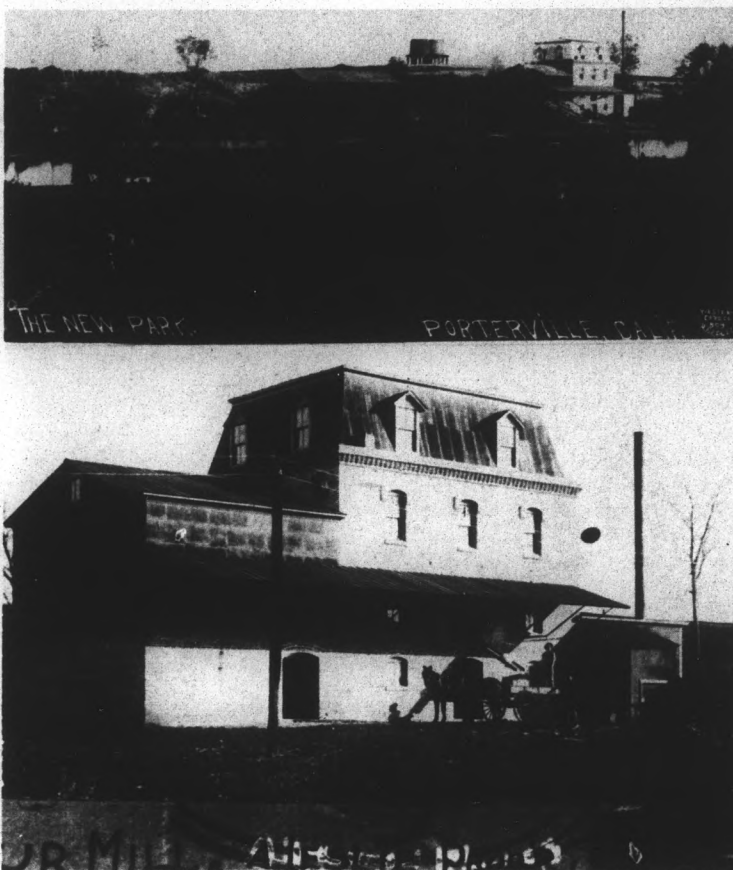
SPRINGFEST AT CLOVIS

CLOVIS — On Saturday, May 15 Clovis will again celebrate its annual Springfest, Art, Craft and Antique Show and Sale. This year's event will take place on the lawn in front of the Old Clovis High at 903 Fifth street in downtown Clovis from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Items for sale include handmade quilts, dolls, wall hangings, wind chimes, jewelry, pillows, pottery and art work.



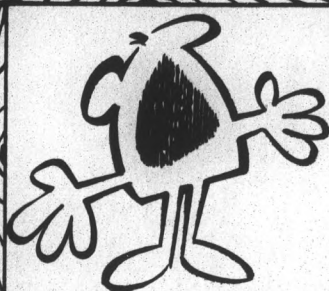
SITE OF early-day Porterville Flour Mills in what is now Murry park were commemorated Sunday when the Plano 4-H club and the Tulare County Historical society dedicated a bronze, historical marker. Flag ceremony was conducted by Plano 4-H members (top photo) as part of the program; in lower photo are some of the persons who participated in the dedication ceremony, from left, lower photo: Katherine Homer, Tim Buckley, Merilee Sherwood, Harold Kempfer, Walter Doyel, Bill Brawley (of Ducor, president of the county historical society), Earl Smith (mayor of Porterville), Rolondo Longoria, David Land and Melodie Corkins.

(Edwards Studio photos)



THE OLD flour mill buildings in Murry park as they were three-quarters of a century ago. In top photo the present Murry park lake is in the foreground, with view toward the east; in lower photo is the "new" flour mill constructed in 1897 by Andrew Leslie and operated by steam power. In 1929, after operations had ceased, this property was deeded to the city and the mill building was torn down in 1938. First mill on the site was constructed in the late 1860s.

(Photos courtesy Hammond Studio)



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with
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Emmy's

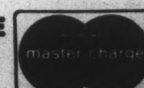
FASHIONS



209 NORTH
MAIN STREET

PORTERVILLE

A TUESDAY BONUS STORE





MODELING BARTLETT Junior High's new band uniforms are, from left: Cynthia Bigham, Janet O'Hare, and Scott Gilbertson. Band members and parents, after conducting fund-raising activities for the past five years, were just recently able to purchase all new uniforms with both concert and marching bibs. Jerry Kuhlmann is Bartlett instrumental director.

MUSICAL "1776" PLAYS VISALIA SATURDAY, MAY 15

VISALIA — "1776," the Broadway musical celebrating the events leading to the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, will come to the stage of Visalia's L.J. Williams theatre on Saturday, May 15.

The play is a Continental Theatre production featuring a touring company of top notch talent, and is co-sponsored by the Visalia Times Delta and the Tulare County Symphony Association and League.

Two performances are scheduled: a student matinee at 2 p.m. and a gala evening performance, complete with champagne intermission, at 8 o'clock.

Tickets for both showings may be purchased at the Visalia Convention Center box office, 303 East Acequia street, either in person or by mail order.

Ticket prices are \$5.50 (ground floor rows A through N); \$4.50 (rows O through U and lower balcony) and \$3.00 for upper balcony seats. All matinee seats are \$1 and definitely for students only. Tickets will be sold at the door, but only if the house has not been sold out in advance sales.

If ordering by mail, checks in the exact amount and stamped, self-addressed envelopes must be enclosed. Telephoned ticket requests may be made by calling 733-2424. Students must present their student body cards at admission.

FARM FRONT

VISALIA — A wide variety of agricultural activities are underway in Tulare county, with Clyde R. Churchill, agricultural commissioner, reporting that as of the week ending April 30:

Irrigated grain heading out and making good progress, however many dryland grain fields are in poor condition.

Cotton planting active with some early-seed fields being replanted; alfalfa being cut and baled; field corn looking good; oat hay being cut.

Plums, peaches and nectarines being thinned; suckers being pulled in table grape vineyards; vineyards being dusted for mildew; weather may hamper

apple set in higher elevations.

Avocados at peak bloom with a good crop indicated; early citrus bloom good in some areas, variable in others; Valencia oranges being packed for export.

Sugar peas, squash, asparagus moving to market; strawberry harvest continuing with improved quality; tomatoes being staked, stringed and cultivated.

Rangeland feed rapidly maturing and drying in the lower elevations.

Travel

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TOURS CRUISES



HARRIETTE LHOMME, center, Pacific Telephone Service representative, was honored by friends and co-workers with an all day reception in her behalf at the Porterville business office lounge last Friday. She is retiring after 33 years service. Mrs. Lhomme began her full-time career with Pacific Telephone in 1943 as a typist in San Francisco, but had worked as an occasional employee for seven years prior to that. She has been a Service Rep in Porterville for the last 29 years. Mrs. Lhomme and her husband, Bud, plan to remain in the Porterville area. Others in photo: Jim Ford, left, district manager, and Bob Board, right, Porterville manager. (Hammond Studio photo)

JUDGE THOMPSON asks—do you know?

• that only misdemeanors and preliminary hearings to felonies are heard in Municipal Court.

—RICHARD THOMPSON - 26 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LAW—

• that Porterville's court is the only Municipal or Justice Court in Tulare County where all cases are filed thru the local District Attorney's office rather than thru the D.A.'s central office in Visalia.

Richard Thompson - 15 Yrs.City Attorney - 3½ Yrs.Judge

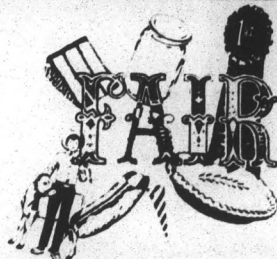
• that Good Citizenship means taking the witness stand when you have information important to the case.

KEEP

☒ **RICHARD THOMPSON**
JUDGE OF PORTERVILLE'S
MUNICIPAL COURT

CO-CHAIRMAN, VIRGINIA WILLIAMS - RICHARD MULLER

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\$50 in accessories

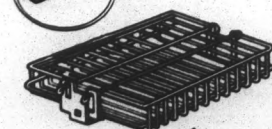
For a limited time **ONLY \$15**

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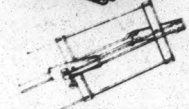
Now, get \$50 in accessories for only \$15 with the purchase of any full-size Charmglow barbeque.* This special offer includes Charmglow's most popular . . . and most useful accessories:



ROTISSERIE SPIT AND MOTOR—for roasts, ham, lamb, chicken, turkey.

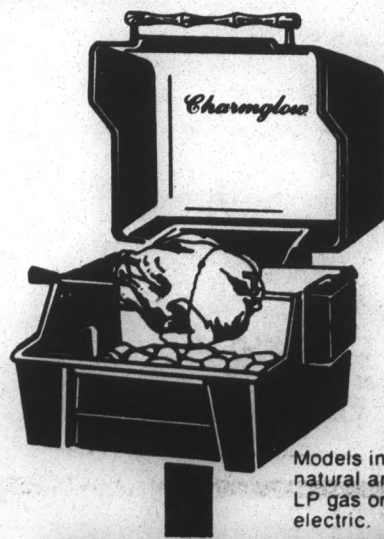


ALL-PURPOSE ROTISSERIE BASKET—for ribs, fish, sliced ham, chicken.



ROTISSERIE SHISHKEBOB—for shrimp, meat and shishkebobs.

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LEGAL NOTICE

PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET-GENERAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 1975 AND 1974

ASSETS	1975	1974
UTILITY PLANT		
Utility plant	\$ 198 989	\$ 196 003
Success reservoir storage rights	225 995	225 995
Allowance for depreciation and amortization	(163 091)	(149 105)
Total	261 893	272 893
INVESTMENTS		
Investment in ditch companies	1 179	1 179
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	188 147	174 300
Accounts receivable	225	
Taxes receivable	52 208	45 157
Accrued interest receivable	1 741	948
Deposit with U. S. B. R.	5 352	
Inventory of supplies	1 021	890
Prepayments	2 597	1 956
Total current assets	251 301	223 251
Total assets	\$ 514 373	\$ 497 323

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE-GENERAL FUND
DECEMBER 31, 1975 AND 1974

	1975	1974
Unappropriated fund balance, January 1,	\$ 132 376	\$ 136 709
Add: Net income for the year ended December 31, 1975	4 821	
Depreciation	14 480	13 618
Total	151 677	150 327
Less: Net loss for the year ended December 31, 1974		9 278
Investment in utility plant	9 063	8 673
Total deductions		17 951
Unappropriated fund balance, December 31,	\$ 142 614	\$ 132 376

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1975

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- Accounting Method** - Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are recorded by the "cash basis method" of accounting. At the year end, adjustments are made to the accounting records to reflect the "accrual basis method" of accounting.
 - Depreciation** - Utility plant is shown at cost and is being depreciated over its estimated useful lives, ranging from 5 to 40 years, by the use of the straight line method.
 - Investments** - Investments in ditch company stock is carried at cost.
 - Income Taxes** - Under applicable law and regulations, the District is exempt from Federal and California taxes on income.
 - The District has a pension plan covering all employees with two or more years service. The total pension expense funded and charged to income was \$ 94 in 1975.
- The District has a long-term debt with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation accumulated under the Success Project Interim contracts in the account of the Tule River Association, of which they are a member. The original obligation as of July 1, 1965, amounted to \$ 234 175 payable in forty annual payments. In 1974, the original obligation was reduced to \$ 225 995. The amount owing at December 31, 1975 amount to \$ 161 870, or \$ 5 582 for the next twenty-nine years.

Board of Directors
Porterville Irrigation District
Porterville, California

We have examined the balance sheet of the Porterville Irrigation District General Fund and Improvement District No. 2 as of December 31, 1975 and 1974 and the related statements of income, changes in unappropriated fund balance and changes in financial position for the years then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of the Porterville Irrigation District at December 31, 1975 and 1974, and the results of its operations and changes in financial position for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

Vollmer, Canfield, Westendorfer & Daniel
VOLLMER, CANFIELD, WESTENDORFER & DANIEL

LEGAL NOTICE

LIABILITIES, CREDITS AND FUND BALANCES

LONG-TERM DEBT	
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation - Note 2	
Total long-term debt	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	
Matured long-term debt - Note 2	
Due other funds	
Total current liabilities	
DEFERRED CREDITS	
1976 Assessment revenue	
FUND BALANCES	
Investment in Utility Plant	
Investment in other assets	
Unappropriated fund balance	
Total fund balances	
Total liabilities, credits and fund balances	

STATEMENT OF INCOME-GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975 AND 1974

OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSE	
OPERATING REVENUE	
Water sales:	
Residential	\$ 50
Irrigation	53 530
Other districts	26 850
Operational charges	457
Total operating income	80 887
OPERATING EXPENSE	
Source of supply:	
Purchased water	77 638
Transmission and distribution - Schedule B-1	44 064
Administrative and general - Schedule B-2	35 424
Depreciation and amortization	14 480
Total operating expense	171 606
Net operating loss	90 719
NON-OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSE	
REVENUE	
Interest on time deposits	5 995
Taxes, penalties and interest	88 878
Other	1 392
Total non-operating revenue	96 265
EXPENSE	
Legal advertising	305
Election costs	27
Crop mapping	265
Ground water measuring	128
Total non-operating expense	725
Net non-operating income	95 540
Net income or (loss)	\$ 4 821

PORTERVILLE IRRIGATION DISTRICT-GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION-GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1975 AND 1974

SOURCE OF WORKING CAPITAL	
Non-cash expense - depreciation and amortization	\$ 14 480
Add: Net income	4 821
Increase in deferred assessment revenue	15 834
Net decrease in working capital	
Total	\$ 35 135
APPLICATION OF WORKING CAPITAL	
Net loss	\$ 5 582
Decrease in long-term liability	3 481
Purchase of assets - net	26 072
Net increase in working capital	
Total	\$ 35 135
CHANGES IN WORKING CAPITAL	
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 13 847
Accounts receivable	225
Taxes receivable	7 051
Water in storage or deposit with U. S. B. R.	5 362
Inventories	131
Prepaid expense	641
Accrued interest receivable	793
Net change in current assets	28 050
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 2 072
Due other funds	(94)
Net change in current liabilities	1 978
Net increase (decrease) in working capital	\$ 26 072

EXHIBIT A

	1975	1974
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation - Note 2	\$ 156 288	\$ 161 870
Total long-term debt	156 288	161 870
Accounts payable	4 671	2 599
Matured long-term debt - Note 2	5 582	5 582
Due other funds		94
Total current liabilities	10 253	8 275
1976 Assessment revenue	104 016	88 182
Investment in Utility Plant	100 023	105 441
Investment in other assets	1 179	1 179
Unappropriated fund balance	142 614	132 376
Total fund balances	243 816	238 996
Total liabilities, credits and fund balances	\$ 514 373	\$ 497 323

EXHIBIT B

	1975	1974
Water sales:		
Residential	\$ 50	\$ 54
Irrigation	53 530	41 015
Other districts	26 850	40 533
Operational charges	457	299
Total operating income	80 887	81 901
Source of supply:		
Purchased water	77 638	96 656
Transmission and distribution - Schedule B-1	44 064	42 082
Administrative and general - Schedule B-2	35 424	33 060
Depreciation and amortization	14 480	13 618
Total operating expense	171 606	185 416
Net operating loss	90 719	103 515
Interest on time deposits	5 995	5 603
Taxes, penalties and interest	88 878	88 467
Other	1 392	887
Total non-operating revenue	96 265	94 957
Legal advertising	305	292
Election costs	27	
Crop mapping	265	353
Ground water measuring	128	75
Total non-operating expense	725	720
Net non-operating income	95 540	94 237
Net income or (loss)	\$ 4 821	\$ (9 278)

EXHIBIT C

	1975	1974
Non-cash expense - depreciation and amortization	\$ 14 480	\$ 13 618
Add: Net income	4 821	
Increase in deferred assessment revenue	15 834	78
Net decrease in working capital		4 258
Total	\$ 35 135	\$ 17 954
Net loss	\$ 5 582	\$ 9 278
Decrease in long-term liability	3 481	5 854
Purchase of assets - net	26 072	2 822
Net increase in working capital		
Total	\$ 35 135	\$ 17 594
Cash	\$ 13 847	\$ (5 586)
Accounts receivable	225	(270)
Taxes receivable	7 051	6 139
Water in storage or deposit with U. S. B. R.	5 362	(3 756)
Inventories	131	84
Prepaid expense	641	(311)
Accrued interest receivable	793	520
Net change in current assets	28 050	(3 180)
Accounts payable	\$ 2 072	\$ 1 082
Due other funds	(94)	(4)
Net change in current liabilities	1 978	1 078
Net increase (decrease) in working capital	\$ 26 072	\$ (4 258)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TULARE
No. 24524

Estate of
WILKO MENTZ, JR., Deceased.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the creditors of the above named decedent that all persons having claims against the said decedent are required to file them, with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the clerk of the above entitled court, or to present them, with the necessary vouchers, to the undersigned at the law offices of Hubler, Burford, Moran & Quirk, 141 E. Mill Ave., Porterville, Calif. 93257 which is the place of business of the undersigned in all matters pertaining to the estate of said decedent, within four months after the first publication of this notice.
Dated April 9, 1976.
BANK OF AMERICA, N.T.&S.A.
Executor of the Will of the above named decedent
Hubler, Burford, Moran & Quirk
Attorneys at Law
141 E. Mill Avenue
Porterville, California 93257
Telephone: (209) 784-5064
Attorneys for Executor
First publication: April 15, 1976.
a15,22,29,m6,13

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT

The following persons are doing business as:
MO-CAL ENTERPRISES
at 1061 E. Vandalia Ave., Porterville, CA 93257.
1. **MELVIN HENRY BENCH**
1061 E. Vandalia Ave.
Porterville, CA 93257
2. **HUBERTA JUNE BENCH**
1061 E. Vandalia Ave.
Porterville, CA 93257
This business is conducted by General Partnership.
Signed Melvin Henry Bench,
Huberta June Bench
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Tulare County on April 7, 1976.
CERTIFICATION
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original on file in my office.
JAY C. BAYLESS, County Clerk
By Mayme B. Gott, Deputy
EXPIRES 12/31/81
a15,22,29,m6

NOTICE OF HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 18, 1976, at 10:30 o'clock a.m., in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, Courthouse, Mineral King and Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California.
The hearing will pertain to an Amendment to the Zoning Regulations Case No. PZ 75-56, as recommended by the Tulare County Planning Commission in its Resolution No. 4592, for a change of zone from the present A-1 (Agricultural) Zone to the C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) Zone on property located at the southwest corner of Teapot Dome Avenue (Avenue 128) and Orange Belt Drive (Old Highway 65), south of Porterville.
All interested persons may appear and be heard at said time and place. By order of the Board of Supervisors.
Dated April 27, 1976.
JAY C. BAYLESS, County Clerk and ex-officio clerk of the Board of Supervisors
By Carol Santos, Deputy
m6

NOTICE OF ANNUAL REPORT OF PRIVATE FOUNDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual report for the calendar year 1975 of Bartlett Trust Fund, also known as W.P. Bartlett Trust Fund, and the annual tax returns are available at the office of Hubler, Burford, Moran & Quirk, its principal office, at 141 East Mill Avenue, Porterville, California, for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 days hereafter.
William B. Richardson, Secretary
Principal Manager
141 East Mill Avenue
Porterville, Calif.
Principal Office
m6

STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTNERSHIP
OPERATING UNDER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
The following 2 persons have withdrawn as general partners from the partnership operating under the fictitious business name of
THE CRAFTSMEN'S QUARTER
at 35587 Hwy. 190, Springville, Cal. 93265.
The fictitious business name statement for the partnership was filed on 11-1-74 in the County of Tulare.
The full name and residence of the persons withdrawing as partners:
BARBARA K. CRANE
34715 Wilson Dr.
Springville, Cal. 93265
MARK P. CRANE
26600 Ave. 196
Strathmore
Mailing Add.: P.O. Box 122
Porterville, Cal. 93257
Signed: Mark Crane
B.K. Crane
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Tulare County on April 30, 1976.
m6-13-20-27

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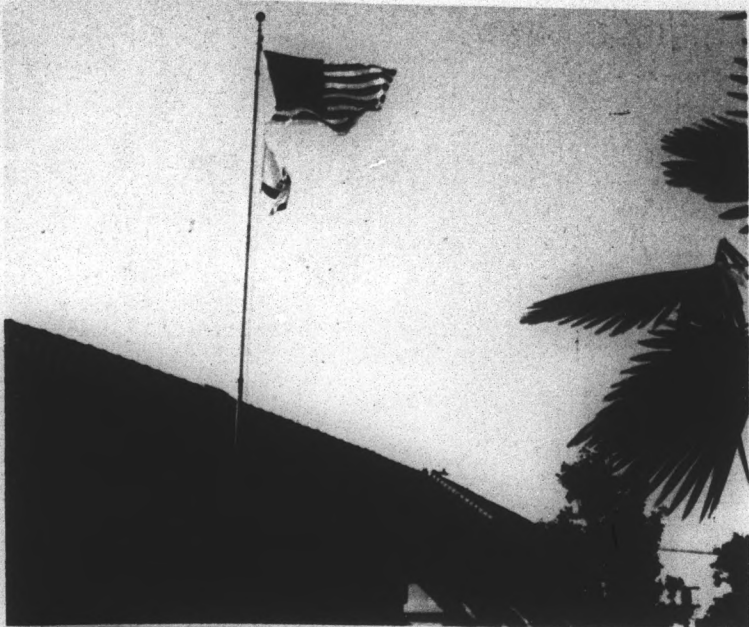
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A NEW Bennington flag, in keeping with the Bicentennial, is flying over the Porterville museum, donated by Pat and Janet Sherman of the Coast-To-Coast store. The Bennington flag is the earliest known with 13 stars and 13 stripes and is unique in the order of red and white stripes and the number of points on the stars. In lower photo the flag is being presented at the museum - from left: Orlin Shires, new chairman of the Porterville chamber of commerce museum committee; Dr. Al Berra, chamber president; Clara Schrontz, museum curator; and Mr. and Mrs. Sherman. (Farm Tribune photos)



150 TICKETS to the Shrine Circus performance in Fresno, were presented by Gene Quiram, left, secretary of the Tulare County Shrine club of Tehran Temple, to Jack Shaffer, chief of recreational services at Porterville State Hospital. Quiram's organization also donated 50 tickets to the Good Shepherd Home of the West in Terra Bella.

NATIONAL GUARD "BICENTATHLON" IS PLANNED

SACRAMENTO — Members of the 26,000 strong California National Guard will honor the 200th anniversary of the birth of America in a most unusual manner during Armed Forces Week 1976.

Several hundred men and women from both the Army and Air National Guard will participate in a relay run from the Mexico/California and the Oregon/California borders which will culminate in the simultaneous delivery of a pair of identical proclamations to the Governor of California or his designated representative on the steps of the capitol, by the final runners of both the southern and northern routes.

Conclusion of this event is slated for mid-morning on Saturday, May 15th, coinciding with Armed Forces Day.

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Camp Nelson

MISCELLANEOUS

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FOR SALE - 1964 Chev. Trans., Two Speed Auto. \$125.00 or best offer. Phone 784-6154. Ask for John Henry.

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Kindergarten Pre-Registration Is Scheduled

PORTERVILLE — Pre-registration of kindergarteners in Porterville elementary schools for the 1976-77 school year will be conducted through May, according to Dr. Bill Luehe, assistant superintendent.

Parents whose children will be starting Roche Avenue school next year should report to the Roche campus on Tuesday, May 4 between 8:30 and 11 a.m. to complete the enrollment procedure.

The remaining elementary schools have scheduled the following dates for pre-registration: Bellevue School, May 5, 8:30 to 11 a.m.; John J. Doyle, May 6, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.; Westfield school, May 11, 8:30 to 11 a.m. (A-L) and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. (M-Z); Vandalia, May 25, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; and West Putnam, May 26, 8:30 to 11 a.m.

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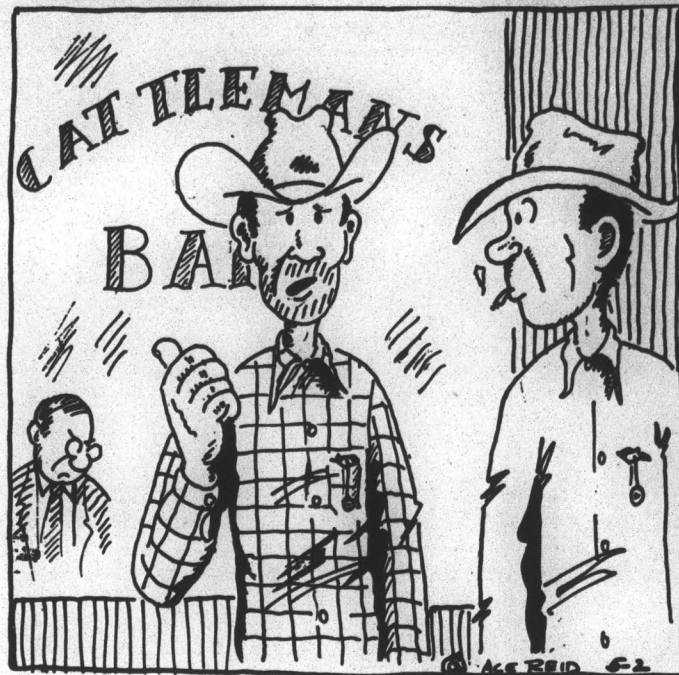
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VOGUE

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"Wul, all I got in there wuz a hard look!"

STUDENTS TRAINED AS MECHANICS

PORTERVILLE — Porterville College will this spring graduate its first class of students under a new one year certificate program in automotive mechanics. The

new program, begun last fall with a class of 35, is designed to train students to become qualified mechanics and help them earn a "good living."

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Fine collection of weighted regulators - American School House - Westminster chime - Wall - Mantle - Collectors and Etc.

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Early French Walnut Dining set with highly carved hunters cabinet Table and Chairs.

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NEXT WEEK'S REPRESENTATIVE

DAYBELL NURSERY

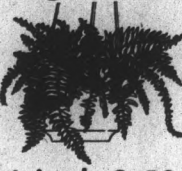
KAUFMAN HEADS SUN-MAID BOARD

KINGSBURG — Sun-Maid Raisin Growers of California has announced that its board of directors has elected George Kaufman of Madera, as its new board chairman, succeeding Glenn F. Wilkins who retired in

March of this year from both its board of directors and as its board chairman. Kaufman was elected to the Sun-Maid board of directors in 1967 and has served as vice chairman of the board since 1968.

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A Tuesday Bonus Store

Local 4-Hers...

(Continued From Page 1)

reserve grand champion lamb.

Local 4-Hers only lost out in the swine department which was taken by Renee Nunes of Waukena 4-H with the grand champion swine and Stacy Hauff of Palo Verde with the reserve grand champion swine.

Other local area winners included Doug Huesdens of Burton, Champion Hereford steer; Kimberly Keen, Ducor, champion Shorthorn steer; Leighann Milford, Vandalia, reserve champion Hereford steer; Mary Ellen Hunsaker, Springville, reserve champion cross-bred steer; Vickie Burgess, Pleasant View, champion range lamb; Jeff Valine, reserve champion black cross lamb; Pam Oxford, Prairie Center, reserve champion Hampshire lamb; Elissa Lombardi, Burton, reserve champion Suffolk lamb; Greg Gostanian, Lindsay, reserve champion range lamb.

In senior round-robin showmanship which included the showing of a lamb, hog, beef, and horse, Allen Lombardi of Burton and Mary Lisa Barrett of Springville tied for first place. Pam Oxford of Prairie Center, captured first in junior round robin showmanship.

First place in junior dairy showmanship was earned by Vickie Veeman of Prairie Center, while Derrick Veeman, also of Prairie Center, earned first place in novice dairy showmanship.

Junior Rodeo...

(Continued From Page 1)

development of a new horse show arena in the local area.

Entry blanks are available from Junior Buckaroo Rodeo, 685 East Grand, Porterville, with gymkhanna event entries \$3 and rodeo event entries \$4. Entries for jack pot team cloverleaf barrel race of four riders are \$20 per team. All entries close May 13. Post entries of \$1 more close at 9 a.m., May 16.

Silver buckles are awarded to first places and ribbons through fifth.

Spectator admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under.

U.S. liquor stores are featuring new dairy-based, pre-mixed cocktails containing "booze and moos."

Historic Sailing...

(Continued From Page 1)

from a plastic model kit and started enlarging them.

Then he gathered materials, such as redwood planks from an old water tank, and started work. Months later, after a total of 650 hours of effort, the project was complete. The model ship was six feet, two inches long, six feet, six inches tall, and weighed about 65 pounds.

It was beautiful! The Gillis family was really proud of it.

Gillis then decided that he would like to make the bicentennial a little more real to his children, Jamie, now 19, and Vicky, now 15. So he decided to make a model of the "Constitution," the oldest ship in the U.S. Navy (now at Boston) and the one described earlier in this article.

It came out great! The "Ironsides" model drew lots of interest and Gillis decided that perhaps the bicentennial could be enhanced for many more people by adding more tangible examples of our past naval history to the collection.

Next came a model of an early-day salvage ship. He chose a utilitarian type vessel that salvaged anchors which other ships lost overboard. It was known as "Anchor Hoy."

The next effort was "Galley Washington," a light frigate, which could be powered by oars on Lake Champlain when the wind was too light for sails. The original ship was built by Benedict Arnold in 1776. Gillis' model is 3½ feet tall and 2½ feet long.

A model of the "Alfred," a former merchant ship known as the "Black Prince" and converted to frigate status and commanded by John Paul Jones, America's original naval hero, was next on Gillis' shop floor.

The "Alfred" was converted in 1775 and Jones hoisted to its mast the first American flag to fly over the decks of an American ship. The ship got its name from King Alfred.

Gillis' model is six feet, five inches long, and five feet, five inches tall, exact in every detail. Noting that Gillis is rather short (5'5½") he explained that he had to stand on a low table to reach a lot of the work on the rigging of the models.

Gillis was right! The models

have elicited a lot of interest — and even before the bicentennial. He has shown them at a wide variety of exhibits including a special display at the Naval Air Station, Lemoore, last October. They will be there again this year.

Some of the models have also been displayed at city hall, at the memorial auditorium, and many other places locally. Plans call for them to be displayed at the city library this week in a special bicentennial exhibition presented for local elementary school students and the public. The displays will be accompanied by short talks with Gillis dressed in his early-day sailor uniform made by his wife, Pat, and her mother.

Gillis' hobby has grown beyond the models. He has collected a small library of books relating to old ships. In addition, his home looks like a small marine museum with the models plus a lot of other items related to the sea on display.

Included among the prized items are a diving helmet, spy glasses, old marine lanterns, sea chests, ships' wheels, ships' clocks and many other artifacts.

Gillis already has had to tear out one wall in his home to make room for his hobby. And next on the list is a model of the Philadelphia, a frigate with four decks, 120 guns, and lots of fancy work. He says it will be a big one.

"Guess I'll have to tear out another wall," he commented.

Gillis noted that the models are not for sale although people keep asking. They aren't for real sailing either. "They're just for looking," he said.

A recent article in the Los Angeles Times on his hobby is bringing lots of requests from persons wanting to "look" at the models. He commented that he has "lots of company."

In addition to making of the models and his sign painting profession, which led to creation and donation of the two bicentennial signs located at the north and south entrances to Porterville, the multi-talented man does ceramic work and has won awards with his creations.

He and his wife, Pat, also built most of their own furniture and constructed most of their Spanish style home they now occupy near the Tule river.

But with all his model sailing ship building talents and his knowledge about the old vessels, and despite the fact that he served in the Navy in the 50's, Gillis, admits, "I've never been sailing on a sail boat, and I barely know how to swim."

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